

## People Directorate

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Our Ref: Your Ref:

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**JANUARY**

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year from all at Coylton Primary and EYC. We hope that you have had a lovely break over Christmas – it has been lovely catching up with the children and hearing all their news.



### Staffing

We are delighted to welcome back Donna Shimmons and Charlotte Burns after their maternity leave!

Donna will be the main parental contact for P1 parents, and Wendy Campbell will continue to support and be the main contact for families in P2 and P3. I remain the main contact for all P4-7 families, and Ali Watkins the EYC.

There are a few changes to staff roles within the EYC this term too. Allison Ingram has made the decision to give up the role of Senior EYP, and return to her previous role of EYP. I would like to thank Allison for her time in the role. Kelly Kotze will take on the role of Senior EYP in a temporary capacity. Lynn Glendinning will move through to Room A and Allison to the 2-3 room. No staff will leave our EYC – just a few moving around!

As always, don't hesitate to get in touch with Ali or any of the team if you have any questions or queries.



### Director of Education

Today is Douglas Hutchison's last day as Director of Education for South Ayrshire Council. Douglas starts as Executive Director of Education for Glasgow City Council on Monday. From all at Coylton Primary and EYC, we wish Douglas all the very best, and thank him for all the support he has given to our school. Douglas was a regular guest at our P7 Burns Suppers, and our pupils enjoyed having a chat with him during visits to our school. We are really sad to see him go!

The process of appointing a new Director of Education has already started, and I will let you know of the successful candidate in due course.



### Covid

I hope that families who have been affected by Covid over the holiday period, and also now we are back at school are keeping ok. Thanks so much for keeping us updated, especially

as we work with 2 different sets of guidance. Hopefully, things will be a bit clearer moving forward.

Basically.....

- any households with a positive case BEFORE 6<sup>th</sup> January have to see out the entire 10 days isolation period.
- If an adult within a household tests positive AFTER 6<sup>th</sup> January, the rest of the adults in the household don't need to isolate so long as they stay away from the positive case, be symptom free, return negative lateral flow results daily and are fully vaccinated.
- Children within the household should return negative lateral flow results daily too, have no symptoms and isolate from the positive case. This will allow them to come to school.
- Positive cases who return negative lateral flow results on day 6 and 7 of the isolation period, and who are symptom free can then come out of isolation.

We have had a small number of positive cases since we returned to school and EYC last week. We will send out Public Health Warn and Inform letters to the classes affected. Although Covid has affected our staff, we are managing to ensure full coverage of classes and of support so far!



### School Lunches

You will be aware that we now offer free school lunches to all pupils in EYC who stay for lunch, and also for all pupils in P1-5 classes.

However, if you feel that you might qualify for free school meals and have not yet applied please can we encourage you to do so? If you need any help to do this please contact the school office. Applications for free school meals can be made online using the following link: [www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals](http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals). An application for free school meals does not require to be submitted for P1 – P5 as a meal is provided to pupils at no cost, *however those families in P1-5 who do qualify for free school meals on the basis of income/receipt of benefits, can be eligible for additional support in times of crisis such as Covid, so please follow the link and apply!*



### Online Registration – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January

Children who are 5 years old between 1 March 2022 and 28 February 2023 are due to be registered for Education. Parents should register their children online at [www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/schools](http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/schools)

The link will be available from Monday 17th January 2022 and all registrations should be complete by Friday 21st January 2022.

When registering your child, you should attach their birth certificate and proof of your residence in the catchment area in the form of a Council Tax Notice and Utility Bill to the on-line registration.

## Children's Mental Health Week



From Monday 7<sup>th</sup> – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February your child will be taking part in a number of activities designed to mark Children's Mental Health Week.

It is so important that we take care of our children's mental health as well as their physical health. All activities have been designed to promote positive mental health and wellbeing in our children. Classes will also learn techniques which will enable them to be mindful of and self-regulate their feelings and emotions.

The theme of this year's Children's Mental Health Week is *Growing Together*. We will be encouraging children (and adults) to consider how they have grown, and how they can help others to grow.

To find out more about this week please visit

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk> where you will find some really helpful resources.



## Parent Council

Parent Council met on Wednesday evening this week. A newsletter from Parent council will be circulated soon, which will outline how well fundraising over the festive period went, as well as other projects. To tie in with Children's Mental Health week outlined above, Wendy Campbell will run a Parent session in conjunction with Parent Council focusing on Growth Mindset. This will take place on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February, from 7pm till 8pm via Zoom. Details on how to join will come out prior to the event.



## Scottish Culture

Traditionally, January is the month in school where we celebrate all things Scottish. This year, all classes in school and EYC will do so through lessons, songs, dancing and fun! In addition, P1-7 classes will learn some Scots verse. Prior to Covid, this was always a big event in school where we were able to have families and the community join us! Last year, it didn't go ahead due to remote learning. This year, all classes will take part, and children who wish to take part can do so! Each class will put forward 2 pupils for final judging which will take place over 2 virtual assemblies in school on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January (P1-3) and Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February (P4-7). Look out for more details on class Teams.

EYC and P1 classes are having an outdoor Burns event on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January, and our P7 pupils will have their Burns Supper in school on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, we are not able to go to Enterkine House for this event again this year.

Anna and the catering team will have haggis, tatties and neeps on the lunch menu on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January.

### TERM 3 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ✓ Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January – EYC and P1 Outdoor Burns Event
- ✓ Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January – P1-3 Scottish Recitation Virtual Assembly
- ✓ Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February – P4-7 Scottish Recitation Virtual Assembly
- ✓ Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February – Children's Mental Health Week
- ✓ Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February – P7 Burns Supper
- ✓ Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February – Growth Mindset Parent session on Zoom with Wendy Campbell
- ✓ Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February – Mid-term holiday, pupils return Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February
- ✓ Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Parent Drop In Phone calls with class teachers
- ✓ Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – World Book Day
- ✓ Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March – Comic Relief
- ✓ Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March – P7 Dolphin House Week 1
- ✓ Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March – P7 Dolphin House Week 2
- ✓ Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April – School closes for the Easter break